

In response to the Official Action dated December 4, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 14 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.173 as follows:

✓ 14. (Twice Amended) In a process for making paper from pulp fiber wherein from 0.2 to 3 weight percent of organic matter comprising <sup>from</sup> 95 to 99 weight percent pulp fiber is maintained in a circulating water slurry in the presence of sizing, the improvement of performing said process in the presence of a slimicidally effective amount of an N-hydrogen compound and a slimicide in a molar ratio of from 0.1:1 to 10:1 in said circulating water slurry; wherein said N-hydrogen compound is p-toluenesulfonamide, dimethylhydantoin, methylethylhydantoin, cyanuric acid, succinimide, urea, 4,4-dimethyl-2-oxazolidinone, or glycouril and said slimicide is chlorine gas, bromine, bromine chloride, an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hypohalite, a halogenated hydantoin, a halogenated cyanurate, or halogenated cyanuric acid and the amount of the N-hydrogen compound present in said circulating water slurry is sufficient to enhance the biocidal efficacy of the slimicide and reduce absorbable organic halogen (AOX) by-product formation, wherein the N-hydrogen compound is directly added to the slurry before or after the addition of the slimicide or with the slimicide in a mixture consisting essentially of the slimicide and the N-hydrogen compound.